GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:421
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2000
POVERTY IN RURAL AREAS
BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB;JAI PRAKASH

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the poverty has increased in rural areas, particularly in backward and tribal areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard recently;

(d) if so, the findings thereof, State-wise; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to eliminate poverty in these areas?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.VENKAIAH NAIDU)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement Referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No.421 due for reply on 19-12-2000

1. As per the latest estimates of the Planning Commission, the percentage of people, living Below the Poverty Line in rural areas, has declined from 56.44% in 1973-74 to 37.27% in 1993-94. The `poverty estimates` are made by the Planning Commission on the basis of the large sample surveys on consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation(NSSO).The NSSO Consumer Expenditure data is not available separately for backward/tribal areas.

2. The NSSO has conducted a large sample survey on Consumer Expenditure during the period July, 1999 to June 2000 in its 55th Round, the full results of which are not yet available.

3. Measures to reduce the poverty levels include the acceleration of economic growth and steps to promote literacy, education, health and nutrition. The Ministry of Rural Development implementsProgrammes directed at alleviating the poverty in the tribal and other rural areas of the country, such as the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) , the Employment Asurance Scheme (EAS) and the Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY).While the SGSY aims at providing self-employment, through a mix of Subsidy and Loan, to Below the Poverty Line families, the EAS directly provides wage-employment to the needy during the lean season.The primary objective of the JGSY is the creation of village infrastructure and it also provides wage employment.